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HERE I AM, LORD

LESSON 1 – The Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 6:1-9 (intermittent paraphrase) - After King Uzziah died, I saw the presence of the Lord. One angelic being shouted to another angelic being and said, "Holy, holy, most holy is the Lord with His huge angelic army. The whole earth is full of His overwhelming presence & irresistible power." I, Isaiah, immediately felt inadequate and quite sinful because I am in the presence of a holy God. I am also surrounded by inadequate & sinful people.

1. Usually, God makes His presence known to a person more intimately when there is a need or a serious change in circumstances. What happened to King Uzziah here? _____
2. Since the king reigned Israel for 52 years, many of the people had never had another king in their lifetime. With their enemies all around them, what would the Israeli people be thinking? _____
3. Yes No Was there anything Isaiah could have done to solve the political uncertainties?
4. How did Isaiah feel about himself? _____
5. Isaiah saw the whole earth full of
6. _____
7. How did Isaiah describe God? _____
8. Yes No Did God know that King Uzziah died?
9. Yes No Did God know how Isaiah felt about himself?
10. Yes No Was God aware of how the people were feeling about the king dying?
11. FOR GOD TO USE US FOR HIS PLAN, WE MUST AGREE WITH GOD ABOUT TWO THINGS.
 - a. God's presence is full of p_____.
 - b. We are i_____ and quite s_____.

This sounds odd but when God performs His will, His mighty power teams up with a man whose sins are covered. A holy God accomplishes His will by empowering a sinful man who has been forgiven.

Isaiah 6:6-8 One of the angels flew to me from the altar carrying a hot coal with tongs. He touched my mouth with the hot coal. He said, "your iniquity is taken away and your sin is covered" (atoned, forgiven). Then, God said, "Whom shall I send?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." God replied, "Go and tell the people."

12. Yes No These verses seem to be describing the process of a person becoming a Christian since there was obviously a sacrifice cooking on hot coals.
13. Yes No It appears that the saving of the man comes before the sending of the man.
14. What is the man sent to do? _____

15. Yes No Even though God saved the man from his sins, and enabled the man to serve God, did the man still have a choice to step forward or not?
16. When Isaiah told God he was willing to be sent out to minister to people, did Isaiah have any idea what he was getting himself into? Yes No

ISAIAH GAVE GOD A BLANK CHECK? = "SEND ME EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WHERE I AM GOING; SEND ME EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY; SEND ME EVEN THOUGH NO ONE WILL BE LISTENING?"

Isaiah 6:9-11 The people will hear but will not receive it; they will look like they are understanding, but their dull minds will deafen their ears; so, they have not heard or seen anything and they will not change their ways & obey God. Isaiah asked God, "How long will this last?" God replied, "Until I punish them by sending into foreign exile."

17. Yes No Do I understand this right? Isaiah told God to send him out to minister to sinful people living all around him; however, these people were not going to be interested, and there was no guarantee that they would ever listen.
18. Then, what is the point of Isaiah going out at all? _____

Isaiah 1:16-17 God said, "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow."

19. We cannot fix or change people's actions - disrespect for God, doing evil things, having no interest in the "good", ignoring the laws & abuse of victims. However, what can we do about ourselves? _____

I AM STARTING TO GET THE PICTURE HERE: I CAN'T FIX ANYTHING OR ANYBODY. I AM RESPONSIBLE TO HONOR GOD WITH MY LIFE, OBEY HIM, TALK TO HIM, TRUST HIM. I AM TO SAY, "HERE I AM - SEND ME". I AM NOT TO EXPECT GOD TO HAND ME A BUNCH OF RESULTS AND SUCCESSES. I AM SIMPLY LISTENING TO HEAR HIM SAY, "WELL DONE."

20. Yes No When the Jewish people were finally punished and sent off into foreign exile, did God know what was going to happen next?
21. Yes No When the Jews were exiled, did God blame Isaiah?

Half of Isaiah's message (chapters 1-39) reminds the people that they were disobedient & were being punished in a foreign land. The last half of Isaiah's message (40-66) promises that God had forgiven them and would return them to the homes.

22. Yes No Could you say to God, "Send me even though I may not see the end of the story?"
23. Yes No Could you say to God, "Send me because I know You will do the right thing in the lives of all of us."
24. Yes No Could you say to God, "I will be faithful & leave the results to you."

WOW! THIS IS A TOUGH LESSON.